

**International School of Louisiana
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting held April 24, 2008**

Members present: Marc Rosenblum, Karen Dwyer, Grant Ligon, Dottie Nelson, and Carolyn Chandler

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of March minutes: Motion to approve by Marc Rosenblum; seconded by Dottie Nelson. Unanimous passage.

III. Head of School Report

Facilities:

Sand has been laid on field; Pete Schram will lead effort to seed the lawn on day after school ends

Work has been done on water fountains

Completion of landscaping on Terpsichore; working on irrigation system

Work on covered area of playground

Landscape lighting and external lighting is in place

Academics:

Currently have 370 returning students enrolled + 88 new students; have begun calling families who have not yet enrolled and still expect to hit 500 for next year

Hiring has begun for next year's teachers; most positions have been filled

ISL was selected as a LEAP field test site for science portion of state exam

ELDA testing is an English language diagnostic test; determines who is exempt from LEAP test and for ELL instruction

Report on middle school fabulous fortnight

2008-09 school calendar has been established and will be distributed

Development:

Annual fund participation now at 61% + \$50,341

Community cultivation: Shaklee representative + Touro Synagogue mitzvah day

Refrigerator art auction

Enterprise development: see attached

Other:

Meeting with Paul Vallas on Monday to discuss ISL's role in NOLA landscape + facilities

ISL PTO by-laws are complete

Hosting bi-weekly meetings with parents and community

Eastbank charter school collaborative: we are 1/3 of students and one of 9 schools in partnership

Blackbaud accounting system to be up and running by end of fiscal year

Grant: any discussion of access to RSD money into Eastbank charter school collaborative? There is a bill in legislature which would put all school facilities maintenance statewide under BESE control....Master plan to be announced in mid-May by RSD

Status report on cottage: shoring estimates. New target for use of the building is January 2009. Drawings have been delayed. Still waiting for teachers to meet with architects. Bid for full renovations is \$285,000 including shoring.

IV. Board President's Report

Executive session re workman's comp issue has been postponed until May

Karen will hand out sections of charter for board members to read by email and would like to schedule a time to get together for a two-hour meeting. Marc proposes exchanging drafts by email instead and then review on Board meeting.

Committee growth and development:

Nominations for board positions being accepted

Karen would like a pool of resumes for May meeting; try to recruit some new members in time for June 1 board retreat

V. Finance

Discussed grants worksheets; no updates

Discussed grant due dates and submissions all submissions are scheduled to be complete by June 30

Reviewed preliminary financials for April

Blackbaud software on track from last month

New business: discussed budget for 2008-09 year first draft; budget will include a line for a human resource position

Budget will be presented to the board at the May meeting for submission to BESE in June

No votes taken

Financial report: see attached. We are \$123,548 ahead of budget for the year!

VI. Facilities: no report

VI. Marketing and Development: no report

VII. Old Business: retreat is scheduled June 1, 9:30 – 5:30 at Three Rivers Retreat House

VIII. New Business:

Parent email to request that ISL not change the start of the school year back from post-labor day to ~ August 20. Explanation that calendar got screwy last year as a result of post-Katrina issues. In future school year will always consist of 180 days, and school year will start closer to 8/20, not after Labor Day.

As a general policy, time out of the country is counted toward international education and children traveling outside the country are not docked days as absent.

Melanie has already had a conversation with the parent in question and does not believe that parent or children will have a problem.

IX. Education Committee

Karen and Sean's attendance at meeting convened by Brochenin among area immersion schools

Marc: discussion of meeting among ISL and Audubon parents

Discussion of how RSD's plans to open an IBO high school affect ISL plans. Marc believes this would be devastating to our effort. Karen believes it would not be a problem.

Three scenarios: open a high school 5-10 years from now; open a high school that competes with RSD IBO high school; participate in RSD IBO high school.

Marc Rosenblum: Motion to authorize Sean to take an active role in the RSD process and to indicate our enthusiasm and desire to take a leadership role; seconded by Carolyn Chandler. Comments from audience:

Melanie Tennyson: strong support for supporting RSD. This is consistent with our mission and we have a unique opportunity to play a leadership role. Opportunity to restructure education in New Orleans.

Pam Stewart: this is our time to lead and we should look at it as a gift. Great for our students.

Support for it; that's our building. Biggest obstacle all along has been lack of money and lack of building. This is a gift. Vallas' record is that he wants to start something and Charter.

We should not divide our energy by working with other language schools; our focus should be on RSD.

Unanimous passage of the motion.

X. Other:

Spanish consul general toured the school recently; is opening avenues with other Spanish-speaking consulates in town

XI. Public comment:

Julie Bourgeois asks for clarification of whether middle school will include language cross-over